

21 APR 1968

de Vosjoli, Philippe Thyraud

Auris, Leon

Sec. 4.01.2 Topaz

Refusal of Red Spy Data Charged to De Gaulle

NEW YORK (UPI) — French President Charles de Gaulle was accused yesterday of refusing in 1962 to accept evidence that Soviet spies had penetrated the top levels of his government and NATO headquarters in France.

The charges were made in the memoirs of Philippe Thyraud de Vosjoli, former chief of French intelligence in the United States. The memoirs are being published tomorrow in Life magazine.

A French newspaper last week reported that the De Vosjoli memoirs would seek to prove De Gaulle's anti-American policies were fostered by a Soviet spy among his top advisers. The French government dismissed the allegations as "comic."

De Vosjoli identified the Soviet spy by his code name, "Martel," and said he defected to the United States in 1961. He said Martel told American interrogators how the Soviet security organization KGB had been able to infiltrate the heart of the French government and was able to deliver top NATO secrets to Moscow within 48 hours.

Kennedy Better Described

De Vosjoli said the late President John F. Kennedy in 1962 sent a letter to De Gaulle by personal courier informing him the United States had evidence that the French government, as high as cabinet level, "had been penetrated by Soviet agents."

He said De Gaulle dispatched Gen. Jean-Louis de Rougemont, chief of the French security agency SDECE, to Washington to investigate. De Rougemont, he said, secretly questioned the de-

fected Soviet spy for several days.

De Vosjoli wrote that De Rougemont "came out shaken by the appallingly detailed information the man had on the innermost workings of the French government and its security and intelligence systems." He said the general rushed back to Paris to make his report.

He said De Rougemont learned "that French KGB agents in Paris were so strategically placed and so facile in their methods that they could produce on two or three days' demand any NATO document Moscow asked for."

No Action Taken

De Vosjoli also wrote that "an official who appeared to be presently a member of the De Gaulle cabinet and who had ministerial or near-ministerial rank in 1944 in De Gaulle's first government had been identified in KGB discussions as a KGB agent."

He said that months elapsed and no action was taken by the French government on the disclosures and that a senior French official told him "the government could not stand a scandal at the time, with the nation just going over the giving up of Algeria."

De Vosjoli said he was ordered back to Paris for a new assignment in October of 1963 but instead resigned.

The novel "Topaz" by Leon Uris is said to be a highly fictionalized parallel to De Vosjoli's story. The novelist and the former French security man are close friends.